

GUASIMAS AND SANTIAGO.

WHEELER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE  
FIRST BATTLE.

**Shafter Surprised to Hear the News and at First Angry—Afterward He Congratulated Wheeler, but Held Him in Check—Hot Words Between Chaffee and Young Over the Fight—Was There a Design to Leave Wheeler Out of the Big Battle?—He Rose from a Sick Bed and Assumed Command of the Left Wing—The Pressure on Shafter to Retire from San Juan—Wheeler's Answer to an Unexpected Recitation**

Not all the truth has been told about the Santiago campaign, although it ended nearly six months ago. Recently an officer of Gen. Shafter's staff was asked: "Why doesn't the General make a statement concerning certain phases of the campaign which would lead us to which there has been a studied reticence?" The reply was: "The General has determined to preserve absolute silence." In a speech which Gen. Shafter made at a banquet of the United States R. & N. Co. in New York City last fall, that strategy played no great part in the taking of Santiago, and he admitted that more than one blunder had been made. "By the 30th of June," said he, "we had approached not within a mile of the Spanish anchorage. It was then that I made the blunder of the campaign. It caused me more anxiety than anything else; not, strange to say, no one seems to have noticed it. This mistake was in fighting two battles in one day. I should have fought only one. I can say that, as I could not lead the entire army for the main attack on Santiago."